

World Book Online Reference Center

World Book Online Reference Center (grades 5-9) contains the entire 22-volume print set, plus additional features such as interactive student activities, teacher resources, multimedia and more.

World Book Online Reference Center

- Basic search looks for different tenses and plurals of term. Spelling is autocorrected.
- Educator Tools—link content standards to articles in ALL levels of encyclopedia (World Book Kids, Online Reference and Advanced)
- Easily select what type of results to look at—sounds, articles, maps etc
- In article audio pronunciation for challenging words (such as dinosaur names)



Surf the Ages—See imaginary web pages from Ancient Times, Middles Ages and Modern Times—learn about history with a modern twist.

Navigate to specific sections by selecting a tab—Explore South Dakota, Educator Tools, Encyclopedia, Dictionary, Atlas and Search

Student Activities	
Trivia Quizzes Science Projects for Kids Content Spotlight Cyber Camp	<p>Trivia Quizzes</p> <p>What type of animal is a rockhopper? Test your knowledge with the World Book Encyclopedia Trivia Challenge, a collection of fun online quizzes.</p> <p>Content Spotlight</p> <p>Feature of the Month</p> <p>More Features</p> <p>Cyber Camp</p> <p>Head for an online camp that offers a summer's worth of facts, fun, crafts, and activities for kids.</p>

Student Activities—find interactive quizzes, science projects, cyber camp and spotlight of the month.

To Access World Book Online Reference Center

- Go to SD State Library website <http://library.sd.gov>
- Click "Electronic Resources: Complete Listing"
- Click on World Book Online Reference Center
- Enter your Library Card Number and Password

Tools—print, save, or e-mail article.

Related Information—Jump to selected websites, magazine articles and more

Article Contents

MAIN SECTIONS

- [Introduction](#)
 - [Why cats do the things they do](#)
- [The body of a cat](#)
- [Breeds of cats](#)
- [The life of a cat](#)
- [Caring for a cat](#)
- [Cat associations and shows](#)
- [History](#)
- [Scientific classification](#)

[Citation Information](#)

[Back to Search Results](#)

Tools

- Double-click a word to define it. [Dictionary help](#)
- [Print full section](#). To print part of a section, see [Help](#).
- [E-mail article](#)
- [Highlight search term in text](#)
- [Save article](#)
- [View full article](#)

Cat is a favorite pet of people around the world. Cats are intelligent and have an independent nature. These small animals can also be playful and entertaining. Many cats make affectionate, loyal pets, providing companionship for people of all ages. Tens of millions of cats are kept as pets worldwide.

The word *cat* also refers to a family of meat-eating animals that includes tigers, lions, and leopards. This family also includes *domestic cats*—that is, those that people keep as pets. Domestic cats and their wild relatives share many characteristics. All these animals have long, powerful bodies and somewhat rounded heads. They have short, strong jaws and 30 sharp teeth. Cats are also skillful hunters. They are able to catch other animals by approaching them swiftly and quietly on padded feet. Or they may wait motionless until an animal comes close and then spring upon it suddenly.

This article deals with domestic cats. These animals have many special physical abilities. They see better in dim light than people do. They can climb trees, run at a high speed, and leap long distances. Cats also have a keen sense of balance and gracefully walk along the tops of narrow surfaces, such as tree branches, without falling.

Related Information

for: Cat

- [Encyclopedia Articles](#)
- [Questions](#)
- [Books to Read](#)
- [Special Reports](#)
- [Web Sites](#)
- [Magazine Articles](#)

Content Standards

This World Book article aligns with South Dakota Content Standards

[View Content Standards](#)

Citation Information—World Book provides MLA citation information at the bottom of the article.

Content standards—Click to view content standards related to article.

New Look Fall 2008!

WORLD BOOK STUDENT

Search

OTHER WAYS TO FIND IT: [By subject](#) [Alphabetically](#) [Dictionary](#)

IMAGES & VIDEOS: [By title](#) [Atlas](#)

FEATURED VIDEO

RESEARCH TOOLS

Compile, create, and save your research projects with World Book's research tools:

- [How to Do Research](#)
- [My Backpack](#)
- [Timelines](#)

BIOGRAPHY CENTER

Find subjects for your biography project. Start by selecting a category, below, or [view more categories](#).

- [Inventors](#)
- [World Leaders](#)
- [Explorers](#)
- [Athletes](#)
- [Artists](#)
- [Authors](#)

QUIZES AND ACTIVITIES

- [Trivia Quizzes](#)
- [Surf the Ages](#)
- [World Book Feature Sites](#)

TODAY May 15, 2008

News Headlines

- [A May Day for Mom](#)
- [A cyclone's terrible toll](#)
- [Birds born in captivity thrive in wild](#)

EXPLORE

Explore World Book's rich collection of articles, tables, maps, and multimedia on the world:

- [Explore Illinois](#)
- [Explore the USA and Canada](#)
- [Explore the World](#)
- [World Book Top Articles](#)

MOST POPULAR ARTICLES

[Africa](#) is the second largest continent in area and in population.

[Many](#)

Switch to another World Book Site:

- [WORLD BOOK ADVANCED](#)
- [WORLD BOOK DISCOVER](#)
- [WORLD BOOK Kids](#)
- [WORLD BOOK Découverte](#)
- [WORLD BOOK SPANISH LANGUAGE ENCICLOPEDIA](#)

World Book Student Home | Online Tutorial | Customer Training Guide | Educators' Tools | Subscriber News | Site Map | Help

World Book Partnerships | Terms & Conditions | Privacy Policy

© 2008 World Book, Inc. All rights reserved. WORLD BOOK and the GLOBE DEVICE are registered trademarks or trademarks of World Book, Inc.

News Feed— from PBS kids.

Biography Center— all biographies in one place!

Change to other World Book Web products by clicking on icon at bottom of page.

Site Map: Alphabetical list of site contents.

Switch to another World Book Site:

- [WORLD BOOK Online Reference Center](#)
- [WORLD BOOK Encyclopédie Découverte](#)
- [WORLD BOOK SPANISH LANGUAGE ENCICLOPEDIA](#)
- [WORLD BOOK Kids](#)

Home | Educator Tools | Customer Training Guide | What's New | Subscriber News | Site Contents | Help

About World Book | Customer Service | Accessibility Statement | Terms & Conditions | Privacy Policy

© 2008 World Book, Inc. All rights reserved. WORLD BOOK and the GLOBE DEVICE are registered trademarks or trademarks of World Book, Inc.

If you have any questions about using this resource, contact a South Dakota Librarian.